

CIRCULAR

Date: November 26, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-197

To: Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) facilities and ELCC Program staff

Subject: Sample Family Survey regarding Children of Critical Services Workers

Program(s): Early Learning and Child Care Program

Reference: COVID-19 Circular 2020-174 Planning for a Critical (Red) Level under the Pandemic Response System in Early Learning and Child Care Facilities issued November 4, 2020

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Immediately

Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) services have continued to adapt to meet the evolving needs of Manitoba families as part of the provincial COVID-19 response. Although the province moved to critical (red) under the Pandemic Response System on November 12, 2020, no additional restrictions for child care facilities were implemented.

However, child care facilities should continue to prepare operational plans for a critical (red) response level being implemented within the ELCC sector if needed in the future.

To assist with planning, it is strongly recommended that all child care facilities conduct a survey of currently enrolled families to determine how many children require care because their parent/guardian(s) are critical services worker(s). A *Sample Family Survey re: Critical Services Workers* (attached) is being provided to support planning by child care facilities.

Survey responses will help determine if your facility can manage a reduction in cohort sizes if required under future public health directives, which could also result in a facility having to reduce its space capacity. In addition, it will help determine if your facility would have vacant spaces available for front-line health care providers and other critical services workers. As the province has moved into "red" under the Pandemic Response System, facilities should be prioritizing enrollment for critical service worker families into vacant spaces.

Manitoba Child Care Search supports access to available child care as part of Manitoba's COVID-19 pandemic response. This search tool remains in effect as the preferred search option to find licensed and available child care in Manitoba. Please keep your facility information online up-to-date at www.manitoba.ca/childcaresearch to ensure that families can locate available spaces.

If there is a need in your community and you would like to expand your hours of operation to meet the needs of families, please contact your Child Care Coordinator to discuss licensing for extended hour child care (evenings, weekends and/or overnight). If your facility is eligible for operating funding, please be aware that approved extended hour care spaces are eligible to receive up to one and one-half times the preschool operating grant rate per space. Your facility may also be eligible to apply for the [Diversity Child Care Start-Up Grant](#), which is targeted towards community organizations to develop child care options that address service gaps by meeting the unique needs of their families, including non-standard/extended hours of care.

The Early Learning and Child Care Program continues to monitor and update resources related to COVID-19 and child care in Manitoba. For operational updates and directives, visit: [Manitoba Families COVID-19 Notices and Circulars](#).

For the latest provincial public health information on COVID-19, visit the Manitoba government's website at: www.manitoba.ca/covid19

The ongoing commitment of the child care sector to providing quality care, while also ensuring that precautions are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is greatly appreciated. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for your efforts throughout this difficult time.

If you have any questions, please email cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca or call 204-945-0776 or 1-888-213-4754 (toll-free).

Thank you for your continued cooperation,

Christina Moody | Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Child and Youth Services

Attach.